

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

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Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for determining the fitness of a bank note by sensing the bank note transported along a transport path by a transport device, comprising:

10 a plurality of identical sensor units and identical illumination units positioned along ~~each side~~ opposite sides of the transport path, the sensor and illumination units ~~being focused positioned so as to focus at a single predetermined section of the transport path~~ preselected segment of a bank note;

wherein the illumination units are positioned and configured to illuminate directly opposed sides of the preselected segment of a bank note.

11 (Currently Amended). The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein two of said illumination units are positioned on opposite sides of the transport path relative to one another and have different wavelengths or wave ranges, said two illumination units ~~being alternately operated relative to one another~~ configured to simultaneously operate at the same respective wavelength or wave range to illuminate the preselected segment of a bank note.

12 (Previously Presented). The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the sensors are positioned in a linear arrangement of a plurality of individual sensor or sensor arrays positioned perpendicular to the transport path.

13 (Currently Amended). The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a linear arrangement of gradient lenses disposed between the sensors and the transport path to thereby produce a one-to-one image of ~~the a~~ bank notes note determined by the sensors.

14 (Currently Amended). A method for determining the fitness of a bank note by sensing a bank note transported along a transport path by a transport device, comprising the steps of:

simultaneously illuminating ~~each side~~ directly opposed sides of a preselected segment of the bank note with light at a wavelength or wave range of an identical intensity of the bank note at a single predetermined section of the transport path with light of the same wavelength or wave ranges of an identical intensity; and

evaluating light diffusely reflected from the preselected segment of the bank note ~~at said predetermined section of the transport path~~ to determine the fitness thereof.

15 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 14, wherein the ~~wavelengths or wave ranges~~ intensity of the wavelength or wave range of light illuminated at ~~said predetermined section of the transport path~~ are the preselected segment of the bank note ~~is~~ alternately changed.

c 16 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 15, wherein areas of the bank ~~notes~~ note are evaluated at different resolutions for determining the fitness thereof.

17 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 16, wherein predetermined areas of a bank note of a selected currency or denomination are evaluated at different resolutions.

18 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 14, wherein one-dimensional evaluation along a transport direction of the bank note is performed for determining the fitness of ~~each~~ the bank note.

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